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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Greenfield Hall

Volume 49, No. 1

343 King's Highway East - Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033

March 2005

CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Wednesday, March 23 6:00 P.M. Tavistock Country Club

ROYALTY, QUAKERS AND REVOLUTIONARIES HADDONFIELD'S 292 YEARS OF EVOLUTION

We've all heard the tales and legends of the origins of our town. At our Candlelight Dinner you'll hear the real story from Betty Lyons, author of the soon-to-be-published book about Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh.

Betty will take us on a fascinating journey from the England of King Charles II to the New World and the Quaker settlements in this area. We'll learn the true story of Elizabeth Haddon's background and how her father acquired the land we now know as Haddonfield. We'll hear stories of the Estaughs' trips back to England, about the perils at sea and the capture by pirates. Betty will also relate details of Haddonfield during the Revolutionary War and other important eras.

OUR SPEAKER

Elizabeth Alice Lyons, better known to all of us as Betty, is one of our special Society volunteers. She has participated in many capacities throughout the years, holding a number of offices and presenting various programs for us and as our representative to other organizations in town. At the present time, she is a faithful research library volunteer and is awaiting the publication of the book, *Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh*, which she wrote along with her brother, Stuart, now deceased.

Betty is a lifelong resident of Haddonfield, a graduate of Haddonfield Memorial High School, later graduating from the University of Pennsylvania with two degrees. Her career encompassed 43 years with the New Jersey State Department of Health.

Most of us know Betty as the consummate traveler.

Her love of traveling and history surfaced early with family trips in our country and around the world. She can boast of more than 100 trips flying across the Atlantic and Pacific, traveling on all the continents and visiting exotic places such as Malaysia, Indonesia and the Falkland Islands. At least seven trips to England focused on the background of the family of Elizabeth Haddon and the Society of Friends, gathering information which has been incorporated into her book.



Betty Lyons and the Elizabeth Haddon mirror

The Candlelight Dinner has long been a tradition of the Society. Join us for another memorable evening. An invitation and reservation form has been included in this *Bulletin* for your convenience.

Be sure to join us also on February 27 for our Winter Reception and the opening of the new Pottery Exhibit.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by Bob Marshall

"I don't expect to distinguish myself, but I do expect to benefit from the association."

We saluted our history and toasted our future last November 16, kicking off our 90th Anniversary celebration year. The highlight of the twelve months to come will be our dedication of the Gardens at Greenfield Hall, with full fundraising efforts and construction expected to be in full swing by early spring.

As I recall the events of that November night, it occurred sometime after the opening remarks. I was giving thanks to the Executive Board and in the midst of honoring Bill Meehan with a Life Membership. The otherwise elegant evening took a detour with the unscripted collapse of the podium. With the pedestal wobbling towards the floor, I handed the liberated desktop to Bill with a "Here, hold this," like Abbott handing Costello the steering wheel during a wild chase scene.

Discarding planned remarks for no reason of logic, I skipped right to the toast. It seemed like the right thing to do. I then introduced Society Librarian Kathy Tassini, who had prepared "A Brief History of the Society," tracing our roots from 1913 to today. As I listened and heard the names, accomplishments and escapades of those that have preceded us, I wondered at how pleased they might be to see the product of their efforts: a community that is a success and the source of envy. So many take this for granted today. But it was no accident.

I looked around the room, and I saw the faces of those who have taken up the challenge in our own time. People who can't be thanked enough for their devotion to the community. People who should be recognized. People who were meant to be recognized, somewhere between the award for Bill, the crash of the pedestal and the toast.

There was Connie Reeves, who puts together this terrific newsletter you're reading. And behind this woman stood husband Ed, who helps with our computer problems. As if that is not enough from one family, their daughter Carol Harkins designed the Society's beautiful web-site, www.historicalsocietyofhaddonfield.org, as a donation from her company **CyberGnarus**.

There was Don Wallace, up-from-the-basement, our curator of tools. His devotion, as well as that of special people like Gus Winder, Rich Cunliffe and Norm Stuessy, adds a masculine touch to the collections, not to mention a place of fascination for schoolchildren.

Kathy Tassini, our Society Librarian for so many years, has skills and perseverance that will be remembered and appreciated more and more as time marches on. Kathy would be the first to step aside and give credit to the women who tackle the task of archiving primary sources of Borough history: Betty Lyons, Charlesanna Fallstick, Zenia ("ZZ") Zelinski, Pat Lennon, Jean Guthsmith, Nancy Mattis and June Truit.

And our textiles, collections and exhibits are possible because of the dedicated efforts of Dianne Snodgrass, Liz Albert, Doris Sumerfield, Dinny Traver, Toni Vielehr and a newcomer, Meghan Kessler. Then there's Debbie Mervine who supervises our rentals, Shirley Raynor who lovingly cares for our dolls and Ann Biddle who provides exciting tours for our schools.

With all the special events we host, there is special help, creativity and enthusiasm which come from Carol Malcarney, Connie McCaffrey, Barbara Hilgen, Carol Carty, Virginia Dowd, Craig Ebner and Steven Butler. Special appreciation must go to our wonderfully successful Holly Festival host, Nancy Burrough and Company. Of course, our "glutton for punishment" award is reserved for Tracy Marchetta and Ruth Sine who have managed our Village Fair through a string of rain soaked Saturdays over the past few years.

I have missed some names, I know, and to them I sincerely apologize.

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It was in 1956, that President Eisenhower announced his appointment of William J. Brennan, Jr. to The Supreme Court of the United States. Without hiding his delight, Brennan told a reporter he compared himself to a mule entered in the Kentucky Derby: "I don't expect to distinguish myself, but I do expect to benefit from the association."

I know the feeling well. I have unbounded respect for all the work and dedication that goes into this organization. The Society has had a great 90 years and it looks as though the Society is in capable hands for another 90.

A big round of applause and special thanks are due to all of the people who make great things happen.

WINTER RECEPTION AND POTTERY EXHIBIT

Come to our **Winter Reception** on Sunday afternoon, February 27 from 2 to 4 in Greenfield Hall. The Wine and Cheese Open House will honor the Society's volunteers and welcome new members along with members of the public who are interested in joining the Society.

Our festive reception, complete with beautiful flowers and tasty treats, is being planned by Barbara Hilgen, Carol Malcarney, Dianne Snodgrass, Ruth Sine, Connie McCaffrey, Virginia Dowd and Pearl Barry. It's an afternoon you don't want to miss.

February 27 will also mark the opening of a new exhibit, **Haddonfield Pottery, From Redware to Stoneware**, mounted by member Robert R. Kugler from his private collection. Rob, an attorney residing in Haddonfield, has collected stoneware as a continuation of a hobby started by his father in the 1950's. The exhibit will feature not only pottery items but also the tools and means necessary to produce the pieces.

The exhibit, which will be open during regular Greenfield Hall hours on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons, will run through the end of June. For special tours, individuals or groups can make arrangements by calling the office at 856-429-7375.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Carol Smith, chairman of the Nominating Committee, and members John Burmaster, John Costantino, Robert Hilgen and Connie McCaffrey have submitted the following nominations for the next term:

Treasurer.....	Robert Hilgen
Recording Secretary.....	Patricia Lennon
Corresponding Secretary....	Helene Zimmer-Loew
Trustees.....	Carol Carty
	Joe Haro
	Steven Kessler
	Carol Malcarney

Thomas Mervine has been nominated to replace and fill the unexpired term of Deborah Mervine. Debbe will remain as Chair of the Rental Committee with full rights and duties as a member of the Executive Board. The Board thanks Nancy Martin for her service as Trustee over the past term.

A formal vote for the candidates will take place at the Candlelight Dinner meeting.

TEXTILE UPDATE

by Dianne Snodgrass

Your Textile Committee, Chair Dianne Snodgrass and members Doris Sumerfield, Dinny Traver and Toni Vielehr have had a busy fourth quarter of '04 continuing to organize the collection in order to better maintain its management.

We were able to purchase a set of rolling metal shelves to hold eight museum quality storage boxes which heretofore were stacked up on the floor. Most recently another wardrobe on castors was purchased to contain our collection of 20th century clothing in "hang able" condition.

Finally completed was the task of transferring our collections still housed in the old cardboard boxes to the museum quality type. This project was spread over a five year period due to the cost. Part of the transfer process included inspection of each article for any insect infestation and exchanging the ten plus year old acid free tissue with new. No insects were found.

Storage areas continue to be monitored for case making clothes moths and carpet beetles using pheromone traps.

First quarter 2005 will be spent continuing the documentation process for military uniforms and ladies dresses c. 1940 - 1985. This includes cleaning, photographing, sewing on accession number labels and proper storage. Our photograph files serve as a cross reference tool.

As always, if you have an interest in volunteering for the Textile Committee, call Dianne Snodgrass at 428-6823. We currently meet Thursday mornings at Greenfield Hall.

WE HAVE A DOLL HOUSE FOR SALE



This beautiful hand-made doll house, fully furnished, is being offered for sale for \$300.00. Proceeds will go toward the Society's landscaping project.

The house is 42 inches tall, 21" wide and 14" deep. Your children or grandchildren will spend many happy hours enjoying it. Or use this

imaginative creation as the perfect accessory for a guest room.

Come to see it on display in the Victorian Room in Greenfield Hall. For further details, call Nancy Burrough at 856-429-8361 or the office at 856-429-7375.

THE ATTEE LEEMAN LOT

Introduction by Kathy Tassini

Carrie Elizabeth Nicholson Hartel was an early local historian who researched and wrote about many of the people and places in Haddonfield which she found of interest and worth preserving for future generations. Using the manuscript collections of the Historical Society of Haddonfield and her connections with many early families, she wrote a number of interesting articles of local interest.

Carrie Elizabeth Nicholson Hartel was descended from many early South Jersey families. She was the grandmother of current Historical Society of Haddonfield First Vice-President, Dianne Hartel Snodgrass.

With the discussions currently taking place in Haddonfield about a possible new library building and a Development Zone which includes the original Attee Leeman lot written about by Mrs. Hartel, this 1947 article is particularly informative.

The Attee Leeman Lot

by Carrie Elizabeth Nicholson Hartel

November, 1948

(MS. 1913-001-1179)

In 1781, on the first day of March, John Estaugh Hopkins and Sarah, his wife, granted and conveyed to Jacob Cox, wheelwright, one acre and twelve perches of land, subject to a yearly ground rent of six Spanish milled dollars and two thirds of a dollar payable to John Estaugh Hopkins, or his heirs, on the first day of March forever.

Twenty-six years after this (28 March 1807) Jacob Cox and Mary, his wife, sold a little more than one third of this property to Attee Leeman, farmer, for \$112.00 with all buildings, fences, streetways, etc., subject to a yearly ground rent of three Spanish milled dollars and one third of a dollar to be paid the first of March to the devisees of John Estaugh Hopkins.

Previous to this Jacob Cox had granted a lot to Hannah Parkham. Attee Leeman's lot began at a corner of Hannah Parkham's and ran by the Meeting House Street or Road leading to Coopers Ferries (Haddon Avenue) 5 chains 72 links (377.52 ft.) to a for., thence by the Lower Road (Tanner Street) 4 chains 68 links (308.88 ft.) to a peartree corner to Hannah Parkham, thence by her lot 2 chains 33 links (153.78 ft.) to beginning, containing one rood and twenty-three perches.

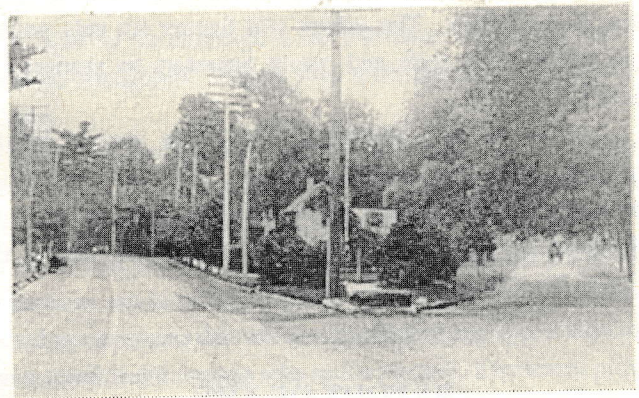
Attee Leeman, an African-American, was one of the thirty-two charter members of the Fire Company of Haddonfield, organized 9 June 1811, and had one share of stock.

This property was involved in some transfers between 1809 and 1822 that are not quite clear, but by 25 March 1822 it was in the possession of William Brown, "colored man and

labourer" and his wife Elizabeth, and Thomas Redman, as executor of Attee Leeman, held a \$200 mortgage against it. This was cancelled 12 June 1827. The mortgage deed does not mention ground rent and it shows that the Hannah Parkham property was owned at that time by John Roberts.

Attee Leeman's lot finally came into the possession of Rebecca Nicholson, a great-granddaughter of John Estaugh Hopkins.

Previous to 1916 she conveyed a part of the triangle, which extended much farther up Haddon Avenue than at present, to the Borough of Haddonfield for a public park. Shrubbery was planted and a fountain was put up with a watering place for horses. Some years ago this was removed and the acute angle was rounded for the convenience of traffic.



The Nicholson property
on the triangle described in this article

Rebecca Nicholson donated the remainder of the Leeman lot and a part of the Parkham lot, with certain conditions and restrictions, (see copy of deed at Historical Society) for the sole use of The Haddonfield Library Company, The Free Public Library, and The Historical Society of Haddonfield.

A building for that purpose was erected, by public subscription, in 1917 and the property was accepted by the Borough of Haddonfield 17 December 1919.

THE VILLAGE FAIR

Our annual Village Fair on June 4 may seem a long way in the future, but we're already planning for it. We hope you'll be thinking about the Fair also as you do your spring cleaning or otherwise reorganize your belongings.

We'll accept articles for our garage sale, for the jewelry table, the book corner, the boutique section and more. We'll also be counting on you for home made goodies for our pantry. Please keep us in mind.

HADDONFIELD POTTERY

FROM REDWARE TO STONEWARE AND BACK

by Robert R. Kugler

Except during its infancy, the Borough of Haddonfield has hosted few manufacturing firms, as distinct from its many service providers. During the 1700's, several blacksmiths plied their trade in town, making all sorts of farm implements and other tools. A number of tanners, some along Tanner Street, made saddles, buckets and clothes. However, it is fair to think that because these same types of businesses were located throughout the region, the locals produced items only for use in the immediate vicinity. Given the primitive transportation system that then existed, coupled with what we know today as limited "consumer demand," that is understandable.

With the arrival of the Industrial Revolution in the 1800's, Philadelphia became one of the manufacturing capitals of the world. Road and railway improvements permitted a much wider dispersing of product. Still, Haddonfield served more as a source of distribution of goods to its neighboring regions than as a base for any kind of manufacturing. Into the 20th century, the same non-manufacturing tradition prevailed. Part of that was a function of the Borough's zoning laws, but most had to do, of course, with the proximity of Haddonfield to Camden and Philadelphia, both manufacturing centers. These cities had the kind of large population of workers needed for the labor intensive manufacturing that then prevailed, and both of the cities had superior transportation systems.

There were certain distinct exceptions to Haddonfield's non-manufacturing rule: for example, the John E. Hand Company (makers of fine nautical instruments) and the Penny (Pie) Plate Company, both of which were housed in a large frame building which once stood where the office building located at 30 Washington Avenue now stands. But the manufacturing industry with the longest tenure in this town was clearly the pottery business.

Many potters carried on their trade throughout South Jersey and across Camden County, in particular, in the early 1800's. They met the needs of citizens throughout the region for utilitarian and sometimes decorative serving dishes, plates, mugs and containers of all kinds. The earliest manufacturers of pottery in the area produced "earthenware," which was made simply of clay, fired in a kiln. Then came "redware," which, as the name implies, was created from red clay and then glazed before being fired.

The final basic type of pottery produced here was "stoneware." This type of pottery was superior to its predecessors because its surfaces were sealed with a salt glaze that was produced by the potter's throwing a shovel full of salt into the fully heated kiln toward the end of the firing process. The heat vaporized the salt, causing it to seal all of the exposed

surfaces of the pottery, making a very hard, almost glass-like surface that could be kept clean relatively easily.

The very first potter in Haddonfield arrived in 1805 in the person of John Thompson. Thompson established his pottery facility on the newly constructed roadway which was then called the "New Road to Long-a-Coming." Today, Long-a-Coming is known as Berlin and the "Old Road to Long-a-Coming" is known as Ellis Street. Apparently there were attempts to rename the new roadway, and because of the presence of the pottery, with its significant activity, the roadway was reborn later in the 19th century as Potter Street.

An advertisement which appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post* of January 9, 1830 tells us much about the pottery operation as it then existed, and included the following information:

Basic resources, such as clay, arrived from Philadelphia by barge. At that time, the Cooper Creek was navigable to Cooper's Landing, which was located near the bottom of what is now Grove Street, "within a mile of the town." Wood to fire the kiln could "always be bought at the door." Large woods were located throughout the area, particularly at the extension of what is known today as Warwick Road.

Structures on the property are also described. In addition to a residence, there was a two-story "pot house" in the basement, with a "large stone kiln." A clay mill existed under a shed. This area sheltered the grinding operation. A horse or mule, which was led in a circle, turned the grinder. The grinder mixed the clay to the right consistency for being "thrown" on a wheel located in the "pot house." The wet pottery was then moved to another area of the shed where glazing occurred and the pots were left to air dry. When dried to the point of "leather hard," pottery was then placed in the kiln. The kiln was made of stone because of the high temperatures needed to produce durable pottery.

Land comprising the pottery site covered approximately an acre and one-quarter (the advertisement was generous in its description). It is not difficult to imagine what impact the pottery operation had upon Haddonfield in the 1800's. Basic pottery needs of local residents were met, of course. Most of the time, the pottery was but a two or, at most, a three person operation. Because the kiln would burn for days at a time, the smell of firewood burning would have pervaded that part of town even on the hottest days of summer. One more horse in town to turn the grinder would not have been noticeable, and even though the product of the pottery was distributed to many parts of South Jersey, the Road to Long-a-

Coming was already busy with wagons bearing all kinds of products made elsewhere.

Unfortunately, few of the pieces of earthenware and redware which were produced at the Potter Street location bore any identifying marks. We "know" that many of the pieces which have been exhibited at the Historical Society over the years were produced in Haddonfield only because of the attribution which accompanies them. As a result, we are not able to distinguish which of the pieces were made by the earliest potters, John Thompson or Thomas Redman. When Richard Snowden purchased the pottery on February 11, 1830, he upgraded the facility substantially. First, he constructed the residence which exists even today on the site. Next, he built a new, more substantial kiln, which allowed him to produce stoneware for the first time. Until then, only earthenware had been produced on Potter Street.

Stoneware, as opposed to earthenware, is a much more durable and, as stated above, more sanitary product. As a result, from the mid 1800's to the end of that century, as areas of America became more developed, stoneware largely replaced the use of redware and other earthenware products as utilitarian items. Stoneware crocks and jugs were widely used as storage containers for all kinds of vegetables and other foodstuffs, including cakes. A favorite use was to take a covered crock and put away eggs in "water glass," a preservative liquid, which would allow for the availability of eggs whenever needed instead of having to go to the local store or farm to get them. Unfortunately, a side effect of the use of this preservative was the rings of white lines around the inside of many crocks found today. These rings are difficult to remove.

The ownership of the pottery turned over a number of times between 1805 and the time when the last of the potters who were to make product at that site, Karl or Charles Wingender and his brother, William, acquired the property.



The pottery in the beginning of the 1900's

They constructed another kiln on the property for stoneware. In 1904, the Wingenders moved both their families and the pottery from Potter Street to Lake Street. The manufacturing building on Potter Street was simultaneously razed.

Charles Wingender was born in Hoehr, Germany (near Coblenz, along the Rhine) on October 11, 1856. There, he and his brother, William, learned the pottery trade that had flourished in that area for a couple of centuries. The type of pottery made there, called "Westerwald," was well known throughout Europe and widely exported, particularly to England. Many examples of early Westerwald pottery remain in the form of souvenir mugs, recognizing the reigns of the first three English kings named "George."

The influence of their German pottery heritage upon the pottery produced by the Wingenders in Haddonfield was pronounced. The "tulip" decoration which they used on their standard ware was a direct translation of very typical decorations found on Westerwald pottery. The Wingenders used distinctive stripes outlining the "ear" handles on their crocks. Designs were painted on each piece using a brush and cobalt glaze which produced the blue design when fired.

However, calls for typical stoneware containers were already on the decline when the Wingenders arrived in this country. Because they took up the pottery trade at the end of the cycle of stoneware's popularity, they were forced to find other ways to supplement the traditional potter's trade of furnishing mugs, plates, crocks and jugs for every day use. With Charles as the business person and bookkeeper and William as the potter, with their respective wives, Frances and Elizabeth, as the decorators, the Wingenders produced a wide variety of decorative and other stoneware from their location on Lake Street.

The Wingenders may have been related to the well-known Wingender family who had manufactured pottery along the Rhine. The Wingender-Knoedgen firm was a manufacturer of elaborate clay pipes near Liege, France. The possible connection to the European pipe maker is made that much more intriguing by the example of a pipe dated 1888 in the exhibit, which is said to have been William Wingender's personal pipe.

Their line of tankards is very typical of tankards which had been produced in Westerwald for some time prior to the time that the Wingenders took up production. Their designs clearly hearken back to the designs used, for example, on the "George Rex" souvenir mugs. These tankards, together with similarly decorated items, including bean pots, were sold in the basement area of John Wanamaker's store in the very early 1900's. They were apparently not always labeled as having been produced in Haddonfield, however, and may have been sold as being German in origin, which of course they were, but

*You are cordially invited to attend
the annual Candlelight Dinner of the Historical Society of Haddonfield*

*Tavistock Country Club
Wednesday Evening, March 23, 2005*

*Cash Bar and Hors D'oeuvres at 6:00 P.M.
Dinner at 7:00 P.M.*

*Program: Royalty, Quakers and Revolutionaries
Haddonfield's 292 Year Evolution
Speaker: Betty Lyons*

Dinner Menu

Signature Caesar Salad with Garlic Toasted Croutons

Tomato Bisque

*Grilled Petit Filet Mignon
Medley of Fresh Garden Vegetables
Roasted New Potatoes*

Rolls, Fresh Creamery Butter and Margarine

*Grande Marnier Cake
Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Tea*

RESERVATION FORM FOR THE CANDLELIGHT DINNER, MARCH 23, 2005

Reservations are \$50.00 per person. RSVP by March 18
The Historical Society, 343 King's Highway East

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Number attending at \$50 per person _____

Total _____

If you have any dietary problems, please let us know by calling the office at 856-429-7375 no later than March 18.
Tavistock will be able to accommodate you only if we are notified in advance.

Reserved seating will not be available.

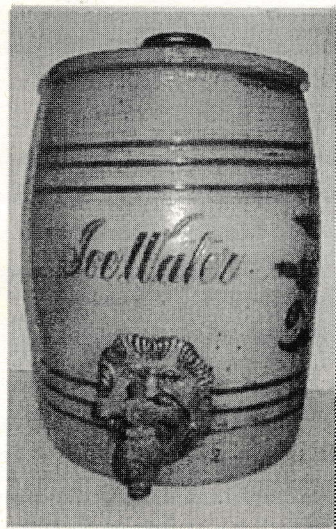
having been "outsourced" to a more local production site. Additional decorative items included planters and jardinières.

The decorative work on these items required considerable talent. Not only were typical inscribed rings, filled with cobalt blue, used, but also "sprigging." Sprigging is the application of molded, typically intricate, clay decorations to a larger object prior to firing. The gnomes and lion's heads found on some of their work are examples of sprigging. A number of different tools were used in the production of these rather elaborate items. Those tools included a coggle wheel which produced both a "string of eggs" design and a beading design.

The Wingenders realized that they would have to use their ingenuity if they were to be able to continue to make a living producing pottery in Haddonfield. As a consequence, they used their talents to make different utilitarian products, replacing the crocks which had been their staple until the demand continued to wane. They made canister sets to rival the popular blue and white stoneware canister sets being made elsewhere. The distinctive font which they used for the labels on these canisters can be seen on one of the most sought after collectibles made by the Wingenders, the water cooler. This same font appears on commemorative items, such as presentation pitchers.

The Wingender family also turned to making terracotta sewer tiles, stove pipe liners, garden stumps (very similar to those now available with small pockets for inserting small plants) and flowerpots. Because of their industriousness, the Wingenders' pottery had grown to be the largest producer of stoneware in South Jersey. Unfortunately for the Wingenders, their production of flowerpots was cut off by federal legislation

in or about 1916. The legislation required that flowerpots be made according to only very strict standards and as a result precluded the relatively freeform kind of production which the Wingenders used.



The Water Cooler

Nevertheless, by adapting their skills to the marketplace, the Wingenders' manufacturing business in Haddonfield survived well into the 20th century, long after most of the other stoneware producers had shut their doors. Indeed, some current Haddonfield residents can recall being able to go to the old pottery on Lake Street during the '30's and receiving a handful of clay to make a small animal, toy, dish or whatever out of clay – the forerunner of "All Fired Up!"

In the early 1950's the Wingender Pottery was in its final years, producing simple unglazed redware, including chimney pots, flue liners and pigeons' nests, shallow dishes in which domesticated pigeons would build their nests. By the mid-1950's, when the Wingender Pottery finally closed, the commercial pottery business in Haddonfield had gone full cycle – from unglazed redware in the early 1800's to glazed and decorated redware to highly ornamented, cobalt decorated stoneware, and finally back to simple unglazed stoneware.

*Rob Kugler's exhibit, **Haddonfield Pottery, From Redware to Stoneware and Back**, opens on February 27 in Greenfield Hall. Rob has lived in Haddonfield on and off since 1950, and has witnessed the transformation of the Borough to what it is today. He has collected stoneware as a continuation of a hobby started by his father in the 1950s when small crocks were \$1 and big ones were \$2. Rob's collection of Wingender pottery began with an Indian King commemorative mug, purchased at the Armory Show in NYC for \$35 many years ago.*

When he is not watching for stoneware items on eBay, Rob practices real estate law at Archer & Greiner. He has been active in a number of community efforts over the years, including senior citizen housing and, now, the reconstruction of Haddonfield United Methodist Church. He serves as a member of the Board of the Partners for Haddonfield, the Haddonfield Symphony and the American Cancer Society's Eastern Division. His immediate family consists of his wife, Sandy, his two daughters, Lindsay and Kelley, and his step-son, Justin.

CANDLELIGHT DINNER ADDED ATTRACTION

Our Candlelight Dinner on the evening of March 23 at Tavistock Country Club promises a lovely dinner, an engrossing talk and, as an added attraction, a small exhibit of Quaker garments. Bonnets will be included in the display. You'll probably be surprised when you see the items. We usually think of the Quakers in somber grays, blacks and other dark shades. Our exhibit will dispel that thinking.

The wedding certificate of Elizabeth Haddon and John Estaugh will also be on view. A beautiful document with the signatures of all the guests, it is one of the Society's treasures.

HOW BLACKSMITHS HELPED SHAPE THE WORLD

by Don Wallace

Bill hook, brush bill, brush hook, hand bill, hedge bill...call it what you will, but the brush hook was used on the farm to clear out underbrush from the fields or to harvest twigs and stems. "Used widely for cutting and laying hedges, fagotting and chopping kindling in every cottager's back yard. The bill-hook's great versatility is shown by its ubiquity in the woodland trades where it is used for felling, cutting, shaping, rinding, cleaning and for sharpening small underwood poles." This according to R.A. Salaman in his *Dictionary of Woodworking Tools*. They were, each and every bill hook, made by a blacksmith.

The blacksmith in Aton made his most popular and useful shape repeatedly, so that all the townsmen had the same particular pattern or shape. Over in Beton, the townsmen and their blacksmith favored a shape that was different. As in Ceton, a blacksmith made still another shape. So that when the king called all these serfs into battle, they showed up with their most effective hand-to-hand combat weapon...their bill hook. They formed and were organized into Companies "A," "B," or "C," etc., not because of the alphabetical nature of my artificial town names, but, because they were illiterate, they formed behind the man who held their bill hook shape into the air for them to "guide-on."

When they were slow in forming up, this guide-on fellow grew weary; but being intelligent as well as illiterate, he used his bill hook to fashion a pole which he then stuck into its handle and held it high without stretching or straining. This aspect of laziness, or weary labor in our human nature, has been responsible for much of our technological progress. He also found that it made an even better weapon by keeping his adversary at a greater distance. The guide-on in today's rifle-toting army is a small flag on a staff carried by the trooper at the right-front rank position in the marching company.

This phenomenon of organizational efficiency and combat proficiency was soon formalized into the pole arms and shafted weapons such as the lance, halberd, spontoon, pike, falchion, and bills used in ancient armies of the past. The armorer who made them was the most highly skilled and respected of the blacksmiths who so specialized.



A brush bill in our collection

Now if you should think that I have re-written a little history here, please tell me how it really did happen; then prove it, and I will believe your version. There is a plaque on the wall in the Armor Collection on the second floor of the Philadelphia Museum of Art which inspired this insight. Pierre Terjanian is Associate Curator of Arms and Armor there. He was most cooperative in helping me acquire copies from the books he selected to demonstrate the pole arms in their great and wonderful assemblage. Some of those shapes look just like your average brush hook, even going so far as to call one category of pole arms "Bills." But then, several other types of tools were also called "bills," such as a "mill bill," a two-sided edge-tool on a wooden handle used to dress a miller's grindstone. We display several mill bills that hang on our Hammer Collection panel near the south wall's western window in the Museum Cellars.

The same tool/town/company identity phenomenon has occurred in the blacksmiths' making of axes and ice tongs. The user of a certain pattern of felling axe or ice tongs swore that his was the best; therefore, these shapes had been perpetuated into the early twentieth century. Manufacturing standardization and the fading of all these trades has rendered them obsolete. Today ice cubes are made at home or delivered in plastic bags...the whole process is automated and untouched by human hands. The felling axe, too, has been manufactured by a few remaining tool makers and is now made totally of steel, even its handle in some hatchet cases. There is no longer just an edge of steel that was welded into an iron base in order to make a more durable edge. The iron and the labor required then cost less than the steel. The axe makers had developed into another blacksmith specialty by the late 1800's. Factories employed blacksmiths to make the products on drop forges and more advanced machines. Many models were now numbered rather than identified by the names of the cities or towns where their shape had originated, but the most popular pattern/town names persisted into the 20th century.

To honor the blacksmith as the "King of Tool Makers," we have moved most of that collection front and center in the main room of the Museum Cellars. He not only made his own tools, but the tools of all the other trades too. His other tools, the anvil and forge, are displayed in our "horse corner" with the farrier tools. The shoeing of horses was almost the last of the blacksmith's specialties which sustained his trade to the end.

Imagine my surprise, just a few years ago, upon entering a small tool maker's shop on Orchid Street in the Frankford section of Philadelphia, to see a man working in the center of the room routinely making cold chisels. These are the edge tools of the plumber and iron-railing installer who must set their products into and through hard, dry concrete steps or floors. I don't think the man even considered himself a blacksmith, but there he was with a small gas forge and a simple anvil putting a sharp edge on a piece of

hexagonal iron stock, then dipping it in oil or water to harden the cutting edge. So maybe the trade is not yet dead, just routinized and hidden from view. It also lingers regularly around the race tracks, so to these extents the trade is still alive, but virtually invisible now in the USA. Perhaps it flourishes in China?

Although the spreading chestnut tree has also disappeared from these parts, the blacksmith's spirit still shapes the world we live in. His make-fix-or-repair-anything attitude rests in the souls of our mechanics, machinists, and engineers. In this throw-away and fantastic-plastics society, our effort to preserve their old tools is our way of honoring their good works and healthy spirits so that our children and grandchildren might understand what they did here.

The technology education that every academic child needs today starts right here where our old tools represent the history of technology. A true technology education is not just about information and computers, you know. There are many other important technologies as well. This museum hopes to shape our children's understanding and serve as their guide-on. The blacksmith's tools and the stories that we tell about them help us to do that.



Don in the blacksmith area of the cellars

Editor's note: Don, our Curator of Tools, presents programs about his favorite subject to organizations in town and in other communities. He received the following letter after his presentation for the Haddonfield 65 Club in January, 2005:

Dear Don,

On behalf of our fellow Haddonfield 65 Club members, please accept their sincere appreciation for your participation at the Club's weekly program. We are all very grateful for your contribution of time and effort to give us an enjoyable presentation and to share some of your tool collection experiences and interests with us. Yours was a weighty subject, and we bet the iron was as heavy being carried out as it was carried in.

It did not take us long to recognize that historical artifacts, namely tools, were where your heart lies. Your passion was evident, and we newly deputized disciples will never be able to match your zeal about these old and unique tools. We did learn a number of interesting facts about blacksmithing and some things about early Haddonfield history. Your frequent reference to the resources at the Historical Society likely stimulated some members to utilize this valuable community asset. Per your suggestion, a group visit of the 65er membership to Greenfield Hall merits consideration. It was clear that you hardly exhausted your expertise about tools, and therefore we will plan to enlist you for another program in the future.

Gratefully yours,

Robert F. Graf, Jr. and Vince Rubatzky of the Program Committee

We, too, are grateful to Don and other volunteer members who so graciously present programs in the Society's name. Are you aware of other programs which are available? They're listed on our website at www.historicalsocietyofhaddonfield.org and include presentations about the Bone Wars, Elizabeth French Gill, Lost Haddonfield, bathing costumes, Victorian children's clothes and Victorian ladies' clothing as well as a program entitled, "A Most Interesting Fossil," about Haddonfield's favorite dinosaur. Presenters are Dianne Snodgrass, Kathy Tassini, Harriet Monshaw and Doug Rauschenberger.

You can make arrangements for any of these programs by calling the office at 856-429-7375.

A BIG CORRECTION

In the November issue of the *Bulletin*, it was erroneously stated on the second page that Rebecca Gill Willits was the "daughter of John Gill Willits, 4th." She was the daughter of **John Gill, 4th**, who had had Greenfield Hall built in 1841. Rebecca, who inherited the property upon the death of her father, married Samuel Willits in 1847. This information and more can be found in the John Gill Genealogy included in *Elizabeth French Gill, 1794-1854, First Mistress of Greenfield Hall*, by Harriet Gotchel Monshaw, published by the Society and available in our Museum Store.

The Editor regrets any confusion this may have caused.

PRESERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

by Ruth Sine

The demolition of two older homes on Mt. Vernon and Windsor Avenues has caused alarm among Haddonfield citizens who are concerned about preservation. Preservation is not a black-and-white issue. When considering a building's value to the community, several factors can be considered: its relationship to neighboring buildings and the existing streetscape, historic value, quality of design and construction, deterioration and alteration, property rights, personal taste, and, most intangible, its place in the fond collective memories of the town.

Viewed alone, the Wood House, an Adam Colonial on Wood Lane, is magnificent and has historical importance to the Borough. However, its imposing solidity seems to diminish the surrounding small cottages. On the other hand, the cottages, probably dating from the '30's or '40's, form a visually pleasing neighborhood with a nice patina of well-maintained maturity. Certainly both types of structures are valuable. In Red Bank, New Jersey, I saw a beautiful neoclassical bank, next to a nightclub made out of what appeared to be scrap metal. Instead of looking terrible, the juxtaposition made the bank look like a venerable rich old aunt holding hands with a Gen-X nephew, and made a charming composition. Sometimes the out-of-context can work, and other times, as in the case of the Commerce Bank on Moorestown's Main Street, out-of-context can be a disruptive eyesore.

What is it about the new "McMansions" that makes so many folks upset? Is it their overscaled size, the cheesy fake-historical details, the goofy juxtaposition of arbitrary rooflines? There's a Colonial-revival house on King's Highway, built in what I consider the Golden Age of residential construction, the early 20th century. It's not really a historic masonry building like Greenfield Hall, but the overhangs, trim and other details are beefy and the building has beautiful proportions. Compare it to the recent "Colonial" speculative house across the street, and the difference in quality is painful. The beautiful older home might have been the "McMansion" of its era. But let's face it, the craftsmen and the materials that made it are hardly available today.

Sometimes neglect and thoughtless alterations take a building past the point where we can reasonably expect an owner to turn it around. There's a Gothic-Revival carriage house near me that suffered a tree crashing through its roof a long while ago. No one could ask the current owner to fix it; it's beyond that, and will probably be lost.

I spoke with an elderly lady who owned an antique shop in Collingswood. She was selling prints of an old photo of Haddon Avenue which included a beautiful Greek-Revival

Bank. When the lady was a child, she and her friends would gather on its steps, and from what I could see from the picture, it looked as though it would be a fine place to meet. The new bank which took its place is so ugly I can't imagine wanting to spend more time there than it would take to use the ATM. There used to be a bakery in Maple Shade, in the cutting-edge art deco style of its day, covered in shiny black marble. When my dad and uncle were kids, they would run over to the bakery after the movies. There they played some silly game, lining themselves up with the corner of the shiny front and lifting an arm and leg to give the illusion of levitation. (In the prehistory before television, this was one of the things that one apparently did for fun). We can't expect businesses to keep buildings which are no longer economically useful. But it would be nice to see kids gather on the bank steps and play games at the bakery wall.

What can our town do about preservation? I like the approach of Salem, New Jersey. The preservationists realize that they're asking owners to make an economic sacrifice when they choose historic restoration over the expedient and cheap. Historically-correct-looking windows cost a lot more than new aluminum ones from Home Depot. The Planning Department sits down and tries to persuade the owner to make choices which seem costly in the short run, but will be paid back in time because of the improved appearance of the town in general.

Haddonfield could do what Seaside, Florida has done: codify lots of architectural design specifications and force permit seekers to comply. But I wonder how much potentially interesting architecture Seaside gives up with those rules. If Haddonfield had said, in the early 20th century, that only Colonial-Revival and Victorian Style architecture were acceptable, we would have missed out on some interesting modern architecture, like the pristine International-style home which is emblematic of the machine-age design of the thirties. We can't recreate the styles of the past with the labor and materials currently available, unless unbelievable sums of money are expended. We should be taking an objective view of architectural design and detailing which reflect our current skills and technology.

Perhaps the best thing to do, given that the Planning Board and Historical Commission are voluntary organizations and probably overworked, is to make it more difficult to destroy a building like the Mt. Vernon house. The house was really beautiful, in good shape, and an asset to Mt Vernon Avenue. At least we might ask the folks with the bulldozer to go home and reflect whether they really want to live among people who are angry enough to get out the pitchforks and torches.

MEMBERSHIP

A big welcome to our new members!

*Rachel Poyatt Alfred Fini, Sr Emilie H Walker Mary Ann McIntyre Carol Zelenski
Curt & Denise Wrzeszczynski*

LIFE MEMBER

Bill Meehan

Remember to tell your friends and neighbors about the Society. Bring them with you to our Winter Reception and encourage them to join us. Please use the following form for new members only.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD 2005-2006

I (We) would like to join the Historical Society of Haddonfield. The type of membership desired is:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$ 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household | 45.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | 100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (per person) | 500.00 |

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

Members receive a subscription to the *Bulletin*, free admission for tours of Greenfield Hall, Society events and programs, a 10% discount in the Museum Shop, discounts on rentals of Greenfield Hall for special meetings and events, membership recognition in the *Bulletin*, free access to the research library's historical documents, nominating and voting privileges, and an opportunity to help the Society accomplish its mission and goals. Membership contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

An autographed copy of the biography of Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh, to be published later this year, will be presented to **Life Members**.

GREENFIELD HALL HOSTS HADDONFIELD SYMPHONY

by Deborah Mervine

Greenfield Hall played host to the Haddonfield Symphony's most recent fund raising event on Sunday evening, January 30.

This special evening featured the music of a blue-grass band set up in the rear parlor in front of the tall case clock. The distinctive sounds emanated throughout the first floor of Greenfield Hall. While enjoying the music, guests were offered hors d'oeuvres by the caterer, Sensational Host, of Maple Shade. They have successfully catered many events here over the years.

Also available during the evening was an elaborate cheese, vegetable and dip display that allowed the guests to nibble at will. Later in the evening, a light supper, consisting of hand carved roast beef and turkey breast, mini-meatballs and Caesar salad, was served at a buffet station set up in the keeping room.

Among the many guests sampling the dessert display were Historical Society members, former Haddonfield Mayor, the Honorable Gene Kain and his wife, Myra. Also in attendance were Marjorie Camardo and Pat and Earl Van Cleve.

A red, white and blue décor brought our building to life, but by 9:30 PM, all vestiges of the festivities were gone and Greenfield Hall was once again back to normal.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD 2004-2005

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Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
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RESEARCH LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday mornings
from 9:30 to 11:30
The first Sunday of the month
from 1 to 3 in the afternoon

SPECIAL HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

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www.historicalsocietyofhaddonfield.org